# REACH HIGHER

## LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

WINTER 2020

**Thank you**

LANCER LEADERS

for your continued financial support!

**Grant Applications Open Dec 1 - Feb 12**

- STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- PATTI FLORIAN STUDENT ENRICHMENT
- FOUNDATION PROJECTS - STAFF (<$2,500)
- STAFF SUPPORT GRANTS (>$2,500)

Apply online at LEFOnline.org/grants

**Our mission is to "acquire and distribute resources in support of Lakeshore Public Schools for programs and projects aimed at enriching or supplementing learning opportunities for students, staff, and community."**

## Thank you for your continued support!

### TRUSTEES

JC Anderson
Sophie Bauchet
Ludo Beaufils
Kate Beckrow
Zeb Deitrich
Chad Deja
Ray Elmore
Phil Freeman
Rachel Hall
Janine Harrison
Lori Marciniak
Elizabeth Meeth
Phil Molloy
Kameron Morris
Griffin Ott
Julia Pechtel
Jennifer Powers
Dana Riley
Jim Roberts
Bill Scaletta
Laurie Schmidt
Lori VonKoenig
Kris Weber
Kathleen Wolf

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## A GLOBAL DAY OF GIVING AND UNITY

DECEMBER 1, 2020

GIVING TUESDAY

**December 1, 2020 is GivingTuesday, a global day of giving and unity designed to drive an influx of grassroots generosity, citizen engagement, business and philanthropy activation, and support for communities and nonprofits around the world.**

It's a day when we can all come together and give back in all ways, no matter who or where we are. People can show their generosity in a variety of ways during GivingTuesday: whether it's helping a neighbor, advocating for an issue, sharing a skill, or giving to causes like LEF. Every act of generosity counts. Generosity gives everyone the power to make a positive change in the lives of others and can help alleviate the isolation or loneliness that many of us feel during this time. Even as we practice physical distancing, we can remain connected through kindness and giving to others.

**As we have seen, our community and supporters have a deep reserve of generosity. We are grateful to our contributors and look forward to the positive impact these dollars will have on our students, staff and surrounding community. If you are inclined to contribute to Lakeshore Excellence Foundation as part of your Giving Tuesday or at any time throughout the year, you can donate safely online at www.LEFOnline.org/donate**

## ATTENTION: LAKESHORE ALUMNI

**Follow Us & Like Us on Facebook**

**Search for**
**Lakeshore High School Alumni**
**and + Join Group**

**Register for Email Updates Today!**
**lefonline.org/alumni/get-registered**

LAKESHORE Alumni

Like us on Facebook

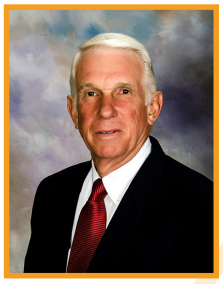
## LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT FUND

The Endowment Fund is our long-term strategy to funding the LEF mission of learning for generations to come. Annually, the LEF Board evaluates the health of the fund, makes contributions based on giving and project needs, and reinvests the earned interest. If you are interested in learning more about the Endowment Fund, please contact J.C. Anderson at (269) 921-2513 or email at anderjcna@gmail.com.

LEF LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

# We Are A Reflection

**Our nation is dealing with the dilemma of how to educate our children during a pandemic ... in person, virtual, or a combination of the two.**



J.C. Anderson, LEF Chairman

**As I think about our current situation at Lakeshore, I believe that we are a reflection of the United States and the rest of the world, as we continue to deal with COVID-19.**

Our nation is dealing with the dilemma of how to educate our children during a pandemic ... in person, virtual, or a combination of the two. And, our businesses around the world have been impacted severely as their capacity and business hours have been drastically reduced. As your LEF Board, I am pleased to say that we have been very sensitive to these two situations ... our Lakeshore Schools and our Lakeshore business community. Going beyond the sensitivities, as stewards of your contributions, we have proactively addressed several areas of impact.

**We think you'll be pleased with our recent expenditures, such as:**

## 1 LAKESHORE SCHOOLS

We have been working closely with Lakeshore Superintendent, Phil Freeman, regarding the potential budget cuts from the state, the impact, and how could we help. With approximately 30% of students choosing the remote learning option, there was also a concern regarding our elementary students and having the necessary tools to teach our curriculum remotely. The LEF invested in learning supplies and bags to be provided to each elementary student.

We have all heard that story about a teacher using money from their own pockets to provide additional classroom supplies. Add to that, the upheaval of their learning plans at the end of the school year, due to COVID. Then they had to return to school with a whole new set of operating procedures. To say the least, it's been an uncertain time for our staff. LEF wanted to recognize and give a big THANK YOU to our staff. On October 21st, we distributed gift cards. We understand there were a lot of smiles and a great appreciation for this acknowledgment of their efforts. Many of our LEF grants deal with projects and this was a nice way to directly impact people.

## 2 BUSINESS & COMMUNITY

Each year we recognize our Lancer Leaders (annual contribution of $1,000 or more) with a formal, in-person reception where they receive the latest information regarding our LEF projects and their impact on Lakeshore Schools. With the COVID rules, we didn't feel that a face-to-face reception was appropriate, so each Lancer Leader has received a gift, a gift card and access to a video which provided a virtual progress update. We were mindful of our Lakeshore Business Community as we selected the gift and gift cards. Also at this time, we would normally start our planning for the annual LEF Online Auction that takes place in February. We have already decided that we need to do something different and won't be asking these very supportive businesses for a contribution this year. We want to come up with an idea that will support those businesses who have supported us through the years. Give me a call if you have an idea!

Whirlpool Community Charity Golf Event
Date August 10, 2020
Pay to the order of Lakeshore Public Schools Special Activities Fund $ 200,000
Two Hundred Thousand 00/100 Dollars
for 2020 WCCGE & ISC Fundraising
Whirlpool Community Charity Golf Event & Whirlpool Corporation's Partner Conference & Whirlpool's NAR Integrated Supply Chain Group
200041768 065488 338265 0056

Thank you to Whirlpool for a generous donation!

## 3 CONTRIBUTIONS

This has been a crazy year trying to determine what our revenue (and eventual net contribution available for Lakeshore school projects and grants) would potentially be. We began planning for $0 in our 2020 Budget in a couple of key areas. I have always been impressed with our donor base and this year is no exception. To our great fortune, we should end up having one of our better fundraising years. For example, we typically receive approximately $185,000 from two golf outings Whirlpool Corporation holds each

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE.

**CHAIRMAN'S LETTER CONTINUED**

year. With COVID, we knew that these outings would not occur. Nevertheless, Whirlpool conducted a virtual auction with their suppliers and with the Whirlpool Foundation matching their contributions, we received a contribution of $200,000. This is the largest contribution we have ever received from them. The need is greater this year than ever before and Whirlpool responded. We are also grateful that the Upton Foundation has provided LEF with a $35,000 grant that will be utilized as the Lakeshore Schools effectively respond to the learning challenges that COVID has presented. We are grateful for the contributions.

**4 MAJOR PROJECTS -**

With several of our multi-year investments (STEM, Reading Matters, Community Auditorium) being completed this year, we are discussing our next major project. Our next newsletter will probably contain information about what will be funded next by LEF. Stay tuned!

In summary, I hope that you feel good about the way your LEF is showing support for the Lakeshore teachers, the administration and our local business community as they continue to deal with the new realities caused by the pandemic. We welcome your feedback. If you have any questions at all or want to serve on the LEF, please contact me at anderjcna@gmail.com or (269) 921-2513.

Sincerely,
J.C. Anderson, LEF Chairman
anderjcna@gmail.com
(269) 921-2513

## Lukas Strain Memorial Scholarship

**A scholarship was established in October 2020 to honor the life of Lukas Strain, an extraordinary young man who leaves a legacy of excellence, academics, generosity, and service.**

**Donate at: LEFOnline.org/lukas**

**Lukas Charles Strain**
2003 - 2020

Lukas was a Math & Science Center student on track to receive top honors in the 2021 Class of Lakeshore High School. One would never guess it, as only his humility trumped his accomplishments.

He was a member of the National Honor Society, the Key Club, the Math/Science Club, the Lakeshore Mentoring Program, the Lakeshore Soccer Team, and the Germany Exchange Program. He was also a lifetime member of the First Church of God, St. Joseph where he was an avid volunteer, often recruiting friends to help in the children's programming.

In his free time he enjoyed being outdoors, sailing, scuba diving, and snow skiing. He got his gentle kindness from his mom, his intelligent witty humor from his dad, and shared a strong bond with his older brother Nathan.

**He is missed by so many. He was the rare individual who earned the respect of teachers, coaches, and peers; young and old.**

LEF is coordinating the collection of the funds for the scholarship that was set up by his family and friends.

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI DONATES UNIQUE FACE MASKS

Professional Hearing Services and Dr. Kasewurm have donated 250 masks, which were presented to Mr. Phil Freeman, Superintendent, Lakeshore Schools.

Pictured left to right: J.C. Anderson, Dr. Gyl Kasewurm and Phil Freeman.

**Dr. Gyl Kasewurm of Professional Hearing Services has combined her expertise with an understanding of how to serve a unique population during these unprecedented times.**

As a supporter of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation (LEF) and one of LEF's recent "Distinguished Alumni" award recipients, Dr. Kasewurm contacted Lakeshore Excellence Foundation Chairman, J.C. Anderson, with the idea of helping students and staff who may be having difficulties wearing traditional masks in school.

"These masks feature a plastic window enabling the students to see the teacher's mouth. Facial expressions communicate a wide variety of emotions and when you can see the lips, it takes less effort to communicate. They really benefit everyone," said Dr. Kasewurm.

**J.C. Anderson, LEF Chairman, says that Dr. Kasewurm, a Lakeshore graduate, "has been a gracious advocate and a Lancer Leader since day one. We appreciate Gyl's generous donation."**

## About Dr. Gyl Kasewurm's Professional Hearing Services

**Professional Hearing Services is committed to providing a superior experience in achieving better hearing. Their office is located at 511 Renaissance Dr, St. Joseph, MI and can be found online at: www.Prohear.net.**

## LEF SUPPORTS TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

In October, the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation reached out to Lakeshore students and teachers to show their support during these unprecedented times. The Board helped the school district fund the creation of supply bags for every elementary student. These bags were filled with supplies such as individual math manipulative kits, marker boards, post-it notes, crayons, and pencils. The bags were distributed to students and will soon be distributed to elementary classroom teachers. The LEF Board also gave teachers a Visa gift card for them to use to purchase supplies for their classroom.

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# LEF UPDATE ON READING MATTERS

Mrs. Harris's 1st Graders -- "Becoming stronger readers everyday!"

## Three years ago, the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation committed $300,000 to support our reading initiative at all of our schools.

To date, reading teachers have spent hundreds of dollars building classroom libraries so that kids have access to quality books all day, every day. Our curriculum is built around students doing independent reading for several minutes every day and this supports that in a BIG way.

When the pandemic came and we were forced to shut down, teachers sent many books with students to read while home, realizing that this was a way to stay connected to reading and to keep all of the progress that had been achieved. What we didn't know then was that students would not be returning for the rest of the year. Unfortunately, many books were never to come back to the classrooms either.

When school resumed this Fall, students returned to what was familiar and normal. In classes throughout the district, students were excited to pick up books and read. Classroom libraries were raided for new books to read and old favorites to revisit. Thanks to the LEF Reading Matters grant, we were able to restock our classroom library shelves with popular and relevant books. Students were excited to pick up books and read. They missed the feel of a book in their hands and the fun of turning the pages while journeying through a book. Book clubs resumed with spirited discourse and a sense of normalcy. Reading takes students away to other realities, but it also grounds us in what is familiar.

### Learn about the impact of our Reading Matters program through quotes from staff and students:

"The LEF Reading Matters grant has opened a world of possibilities for the children in my classroom. I have been able to go from having a very sparse 5th grade classroom library, to shelves filled with high interest books. During this uncertain time for both students and teachers, having books in our classroom has continued to give all of my students an opportunity to continue to read. Reading is something they can look forward to, something that has not changed, it remains a constant. They are able to escape the uncertainties of everyday life and enter into the lives of a character through a book. They look forward to reading everyday and ask, 'When is it reading time?'"

**"I could not be more grateful for the Reading Matters grant and how much our foundation values reading--especially right now, as we have been able to use books as a class to connect and process all of our feelings and emotions and grow as a family during this unusual school year."**

"When receiving the books in the mail, it's almost like Christmas in my classroom for the kids. To see their eyes light up and their excitement about new books is heart-warming. They like to talk about how great each new book is and if they've read it or know someone who did. This instantly grows reading excitement within my classroom and gives students the opportunity to talk about books."

**"The money that we have been provided for reading materials for our classroom is invaluable! We are given such a small budget to order things for our classroom, but with this grant, we are able to not only order the books that we need for our students, but also essential materials to keep our books in like canvas book bags, book totes and tubs to store them in!"**

## LEF UPDATE ON READING MATTERS

"I have even been able to let the students help choose the books that we order for the classroom. This has allowed them to feel ownership of our classroom library and see voice and choice in action."

**"The Reading Program that Lakeshore has adopted integrates research-based instructional practices where reading weaves through everything we do in our class. Throughout the year, I can observe my students begin to develop a love for reading and grow as individual readers everyday. My students are so eager to shop for their books within our classroom library. It is because of the LEF Reading Matters grant that I have been able to provide fiction and nonfiction books at all reading levels for my students to enjoy. Reading is the most exciting part of our day in first grade."**

"I was so happy to see that we had money to replenish our classrooms this year. I lost hundreds of dollars of books over COVID. I also noticed that a lot of the books I lost were the "good" ones--Eleanor and Park, Aristotle and Dante, a few memoirs. These books are the ones that kids love and read over and over. I'm glad to have the money to replenish them, but I'm also glad that the kids that "kept" them get to keep them too. I've never had specific money to replenish books, so it feels really good to be able to replace some that have been missing for years."

**"I think that an anecdote from a few students will help best show the impact of this grant. Our first unit in 7th grade is investigating characterization: essentially, students read as many books as they can by one author with a book club. One pair of girls read every book their author had written, and were hungry for more. At conferences, one of the moms told me that her daughter "does not read, period." Now, here she was reading multiple books and enjoying them with a friend. To top that, the girls approached me about doing another book club on their own with a different author outside of class. Luckily enough, with Reading Matters, I was able to give the girls multiple options for similar authors and actually have two copies for them to enjoy without having to purchase another."**

"Reading Matters has allowed me to buy books that I wouldn't normally spend the money on. So many times you have to weigh how much money you have and how much a book costs. With Reading Matters, I have been able to buy Manga, Anime, and more graphic novels than ever before. These books are generally printed in color and cost much more than a regular novel. I feel like I have opened so many more kids up to reading. Sometimes kids don't think that they're allowed to read graphic novels because they're not real "books." Well, this year we were able to add a graphic novel artist to our author study which brought in a whole new group of readers!"

**"LEF's replenishing of books has been such a blessing. Last March, while it was exciting to empty multiple shelves of books for students to read while quarantined, the thought did cross my mind regarding how many of these books would return in the fall. I "lost" about 50 books from March 13 to September. Unfortunately, the majority of the books students wanted to read were the new, just published books that could not be found at rummage sales and Goodwills. Because of the generosity of LEF, I'm working on getting all the titles reordered so they can continue to be enjoyed for many years to come."**

"This program has not only changed my teaching for the better, but it has also changed my students' behavior. I've had conversations with students outside of school about books! I had one kid, an athlete, track me down in Meijer to tell me about the series he was reading. I got books to kids via meeting up in parking lots (socially distanced of course)."

### A favorite reading quote:

**"A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . . . The man who never reads lives only one."**

**– George R.R. Martin**

LEF LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION

# LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION GRANTS

**The next great idea for our schools can come from anyone: students, teachers, staff, or community members.**

Foreign Language Gets A Boost

Math On the Move

Students Hear A National Speaker

## APPLY ONLINE Starting DECEMBER 1, 2020
## LEFonline.org/grants

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
**APPLY DECEMBER 1 – FEBRUARY 12**

The Professional Development Grant is for staff who seek to bring continual energy, talent and passion to their roles. Do you have a great opportunity to develop and strengthen your professional talents and skills by attending a conference, seminar, workshop, college course or other experience?

### PATTI FLORIAN STUDENT ENRICHMENT
**APPLY DECEMBER 1 – FEBRUARY 12**

If you are a Lakeshore student in any grade, kindergarten through high school, this grant may be of interest to you! Patti Florian Student Enrichment Grants are awarded for activities or events that promote self-improvement through exploration, discovery, study and interaction.

### FOUNDATION PROJECT
**APPLY DECEMBER 1 – FEBRUARY 12**

The best ideas in education come from teachers. If your proposal costs over $2,500 you should consider applying for a Foundation Project Grant. Do you have a big idea that would benefit a large constituency of Lakeshore students, staff, and/or the community?

### STAFF SUPPORT
**APPLY DECEMBER 1 – FEBRUARY 12**

Do you have an idea for a quality educational experience that would benefit Lakeshore students, staff, and/or the community? If your proposal costs up to $2,500 and could be completed within the year following the grant award, you should consider applying for Staff Support grant.

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**The Lakeshore Public Schools community is a wonderful area to live, work, raise your children, and an EXCELLENT place for education.**

# WHAT is LEF?

We are an all-volunteer non-profit 501c(3) established in 1997 to work independently, yet collaboratively, with Lakeshore Public Schools and the Board of Education. Our mission is to "acquire and distribute resources in support of Lakeshore Public Schools for programs and projects aimed at enriching or supplementing learning opportunities for students, staff, and the community."

## Funds raised by LEF support projects and grants impacting students and teachers throughout the district. Examples of LEF programs:

- **Grants**- Consisting of Foundation Projects, Staff Support, Professional Development, and the Patti Florian Student Enrichment grants. The total 2020 Grants budget is $250,000.
- **Reading Matters**- Initiated in 2018, this project provides for overall improvement to the reading curriculum for grades K-12. The goal is for every student to read at their grade level, find personal joy and interest in reading, and realize the life-long benefits of reading. This is a 3 year, $300,000 investment in our students.
- **Auditorium Updates**- Our newest BIG project involves much-needed updates to our high school auditorium. The auditorium serves many purposes all year long including musicals, band concerts, community education, academic awards and recognition events to name a few. The Auditorium is truly a community space. Our investment in this project is $660,000.

## Learn more about LEF

Visit our website: LEFonline.org
Follow us on Facebook @LakeshoreExcellence
Read our newsletter in the *Lakeshore Light*
Contact our Chairman, J.C. Anderson (anderjcna@gmail.com)

## WHY is LEF important to Lakeshore?

The state funding for public schools in Michigan continues to be a challenge and Lakeshore is in the bottom 25% in funding. Yes, 75% of Michigan public school districts receive more state funding on a revenue per student basis!

## HOW can you be involved with LEF?

**MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION:**

- Lancer Leader ($1,000+) Contributor
- Auditorium and Reading Matters Contributor
- General Fund or Endowment Contributor

**VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH SPECIAL LEF PROJECTS AND EVENTS**

## YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES.

**Do you shop on Amazon.com? Did you know you can buy the exact same items, at the same price, and LEF will receive a percentage of your sale?**

Simply go to Smile.Amazon.com and choose Lakeshore Excellence Foundation as your charitable organization.

MAKE YOUR ONLINE SHOPPING COUNT!

**It's as simple as going to:**

**smile.amazon.com**

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

## RIDING IN STYLE

**All Lakeshore Public Schools Kindergarten students received an LEF drawstring bag this year as our way of welcoming them to their journey of learning!**

**Participate in the annual Lakeshore Golf Scramble at the fabulous Harbor Shores Golf in Benton Harbor.**

This event takes place in June — details and registration will be posted on this website. This Jack Nicklaus Signature Course gives you a spectacular setting in which to support your schools. You don't have to be a pro to enjoy the rolling terrain, dramatic views of Lake Michigan and keeping your ball dry while playing alongside Paw Paw River and Ox Creek.

## CONGRATULATIONS! UNSCRAMBLE RAFFLE WINNERS

| | |
|---|---|
| $3000 Winner | Elizabeth Wooley |
| $1500 Winner | Paul Grams |
| $500 Winner | Sharon Warren |

**Thank you for supporting the LEF!**

# LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION GRANTS

Brad Smith, Lakeshore Teacher

Engineering, Drawing, and CAD Instructor, Brad Smith says students entering his lab at Lakeshore High School are saving precious learning time this year, thanks to the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation. Smith received a $64,000 grant from the LEF, over two years, to purchase 24 new computers for the CAD lab.

"It translates into 15 hours of additional instruction time every year," says Smith. "The software didn't work well on our old computers and the technology was really slow. With these new computers, there's no lag time starting up. They don't crash on us. So now instead of spending 5 minutes here and 5 minutes there working on technology issues, it takes away the distractions from the learning environment. Now we can dedicate that time to learning."

**It's technology that is essential to students working their way towards a career in Engineering, Drawing and CAD.**

"We are teaching the students about mechanical drawing and mechanical engineering using software that is commonly used by a lot of the companies around this area," said Smith. "Even if a student goes into engineering and doesn't use that software, many of the other softwares that they use at companies they might work for are similar. So they are getting a really good head start thanks to the program that we have here at Lakeshore."

Students participating in Smith's CAD class also have the opportunity to earn college credit at places like Lake Michigan College. And his CAD class isn't the only group benefitting from the upgrade.

**"We have the software team, the design team, the marketing team all working in the CAD lab using the same computers, so this also benefits the robotics team and the machine tool students as well," said Smith.**

It's access that they wouldn't have had if not for the generous support of area businesses and donors who give to the LEF.

"With the budget we have for the program from the district, versus what the computers cost, it's really tough to do that without the support of a partner like the LEF," says Smith. The fact that it's going to make my job easier and the students' job easier in terms of learning makes it seamless. It's amazing!"

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## MAJOR PROJECTS

**2019 - 2020**
$660,000
Auditorium Investment

Reading Matters
Lakeshore Public Schools

**2018 - 2020**
$300,000 investment
K-12 Reading Curriculum

INTRODUCING OUR NEXT BIG PROJECT:
STEM
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS

**2016 - 2018**
$425,000 investment
STEM Program K- 12

GRANTS $ GRANTS

**2020**
$250,000 in grants
awarded to
teachers & students

## SIX WAYS YOU CAN GIVE TO THE LAKESHORE EXCELLENCE FOUNDATION:

1. Donate conveniently online
2. Swing those clubs
3. Become a Lakeshore Lancer Leader
4. Give us your two cents
5. Endowment Fund
6. Planned Giving

## ABOUT LEF

501c(3) Nonprofit Organization
Established: 1997
J.C. Anderson, LEF Chairman
Phil Freeman, Superintendent
LEF Board: 27 volunteers
Number of Students: 2,765

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## Alumni Registration at: LEFonline.org/alumni/get-registered

**If you graduated from Lakeshore High School, register today!**

We do not require dues or membership fees. We are grateful for the financial support of the Lakeshore Excellence Foundation and for the efforts of our all-volunteer board. **We just want to make it simple for you to stay in touch, to participate in alumni events, and to contribute to those Lakeshore school initiatives that may inspire you.**